

Mouth of The River

Issue 3

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March 11, 1994



AU REVOIR, Aux Visiteurs Francais

by Amanda Richmond and Dawn Igoe

"I was really impressed with the rows upon rows of tomato sauce. We have big supermarkets but not kilometers of tomato sauce." Grocery stores were just one of the many things that impressed French teacher, Corinne Denis about the United States. She and teacher Jean-Luc Deschamps were accompanied by 18 French exchange students visiting Oyster River. The students stayed with host families during the two weeks of February 13th through 26th.



Are Gangs A Part of Oyster River's Future?

by Ben Hardy and Keith Friel

The Crips? The Bloods?? These names may be familiar to inner-city schools in L.A., but in Oyster River?

Well, times are changing. Gone are the flannel-clad, grungy, music-lovin' seniors of last year and the year before. In their place is a new type of student, an image that is flooding our hallways. Jeans worn hanging to the knees; deep-hooded jackets concealing earphones that blare Snoop Doggy Dog and Cypress Hill. The "gangsta-rappers." Rappers, yes. But gangsters?

The truth is, Oyster River has been the home to a gang since the beginning of the school year. Over half the year is gone and still very few people take this "gang scene" seriously.

"What gangs?" replied junior Aaron Tyler when asked to discuss his opinion on the gangs in Oyster River. Tyler's reply reflects the common knowledge of much of the student body on this subject.

Voters Restore Asst. Principals

by Jen Bradley-Swift and Sarah Newkirk

An amendment adding \$80,000 to the budget was proposed and passed at the Oyster River district meeting March 2, restoring a 1.7 full-time equivalent (F.T.E.) at Oyster River High School. This money, which includes benefits such as health care and social security, prevents the elimination of either Neil Shapiro's or Nancy Winterbottom's position, or a reduction of both. An additional teacher position, requested by Principal Ann Draper Brown and later cut by the school board, was reintroduced to the budget.

The amendment suggested by Steven Hardy of Durham caused a loud "what?" exclamation from one board member and much ensuing debate. "There has been erosion of support for teachers and administrative staff" lately, said Hardy. His speech referred to the "enormous amount of time" spent by administration and faculty supporting his own son who battled brain cancer as he tried to keep up with school. "And that was just one student," said Hardy.

Hardy also noted "increasing thefts, ongoing high rate of disciplinary problems," and need for increased support of special needs students as reasons why the 1.7 F.T.E. proposed cut should be restored. The majority of the fourteen people formally debating the amendment were in favor of its passage. **Budget cont. on pg. 8**



Jason Bennington

Two-Handed Artist Waves Goodbye to OR

by Amanda Bernard and Missy Dumont

Teacher Bob Nilson has retired after teaching at Oyster River High since 1969. He contributed his teaching skills to psychology, sociology, art, science fiction, journalism and a wide range of math classes over his 25 years of teaching.

Many students were disappointed to see Mr. Nilson go. They have enjoyed his teaching. Julie Pemberton said, "He knew how to relate to students and always had funny stories."

Even though Mr. Nilson has retired, he has been "working hard". He spends his time doing sketches for the Portsmouth Herald of musicians and play performances. Mr. Nilson also draws a weekly feature for The Herald called "The Seacoast Sketchbook". The sketches he has created are going to be marketed this spring on T-shirts and canvas bags.

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Fresh Outlook On Intern Teachers

by Brian Chase and Missy Dumont

In a recent survey of 27 random Oyster River students, the topic of interns was brought to attention. Following a rumor that some people weren't satisfied with the performance of the interns, it ends up that some students in school don't enjoy having University of New Hampshire students as teachers. Ten students out of the 27 surveyed noted that they don't think they learn as much from the intern as they would from an experienced teacher. One student commented on how their intern was "power crazed" and that they didn't have their own style and that they "copied the teacher".

This view isn't shared by everybody. Senior Maggie Jentes enjoys having an intern and says she can relate better to the closer age and values of the student teacher. Freshman Jill Varney has two intern teachers and "likes the different styles and approach of teaching" made by both of them. One sophomore commented that she liked how the intern follows different paths, and doesn't stick straight to the text.



Up Close with Ms. Relles

Although some students don't enjoy having interns, it's obvious that many do. According to Mrs. Brown, Mr. Hall, and School Board member Georgina Burt, neither parents nor students have approached them with complaints or objections recently. The three were pleased with the intern program with UNH and the district plans to continue the program at ORHS in the future.

So If It's Bad For You...?



by Amanda Richmond and Dawn Igoe

"It's such a sick thing to be drunk at 10:00 in the morning," commented Vice Principal Nancy Winterbottom, when asked about drinking at Oyster River High School. In the eyes of Winterbottom and other school administrators, the number of students who drink, smoke, and use chewing tobacco seems to have risen over the past few years.

Students seem to have a different view on the subject. Not worrying about the risks of these three "habits", out of 38 people interviewed, 16 smoke, 18 drink, and 3 dip. Students polled seemed to ignore the fact that drinking causes accidents, violent crime, and disease; smoking causes cancer, weakened bones, and cardiac these risks, so why do so many people continue to ignore the dangers?

Why do some students come to school functions drunk? Why, at 2:30 everyday, do so many people rush out the front doors to "go smoke a butt"

Bad for You cont. pg. 9

ADVISORY COUNCIL LOOKS TO FUTURE

by Sarah Newkirk

The Advisory Council has been established, and their work has begun. The goal of the twenty-member council is to simplify, improve, and facilitate the implementation of the Vision Statement at Oyster River High School.

According to Ms. Dodge, the Advisory Council is only part of a five-year plan to restructure the high school. A group of teachers informally known as the "Monday Group" has been meeting for 1 1/2 years to discuss issues affecting the school. Students, teachers and parents were also involved in a series of focus discussion groups. Ms. Dodge sees the role of the Advisory Council to "brainstorm, research, devise and create the 'how to's' of improving the school" and making it a "learning community" where students have a legitimate voice.

Senior Amanda McAuley stated, "It's a really good group...everyone's willing to share their opinions." Conflict is philosophical, not age-related. Josh Burt, a junior, said, "What you have is twenty people--all with very strong opinions and all believing that their opinion is right." Community representative Carl Wesley praised the students, commenting, "I'm really impressed by them...they're willing to put up with a lot of bureaucracy."

The group is attempting to incorporate all viewpoints into the faculty Vision Statement, given to students earlier in the year. A major goal is to simplify the Vision Statement, making it clearer and easier to understand. Carl Wesley described the attempts to "massage the wording" of the Vision Statement. Careful attention is paid to grammar and the connotations of words like "community" and "guidance".

The Advisory Council plans to present a final version of the Vision Statement for faculty approval March 18. Once approved, ORHS will be evaluated in relation to the Vision Statement and areas for change will be found. Council members hope that all members of the educational community will be involved in the process. Ms. Dodge envisions the Advisory Council as "a clearing house" for outside ideas. "The Vision Statement should not be the vision of the twenty members of the Advisory Council," she said.

Do you have opinions about how our school could change for the better? The Advisory Council wants your input. Josh Burt remarked, "if [students] have the least little grievance, if you think the hallways are ugly, come talk to someone in the Advisory Council."

Student representatives are: Amanda McAuley, Erin Bostrom, Kate Swanson, Kalim Armstrong, Josh Burt, and Chandler Bullard.

District Divorce: Fact or Fiction?

by Devin McNelly and Dave Cirillo

If the proposed "divorce" of Durham from Lee and Madbury becomes a voting issue, the Oyster River School District could be abolished. On January 19th, the divorce of the ORSD proposal was suggested during a School Board meeting. During the March 2 budget meeting the divorce issue was over looked.

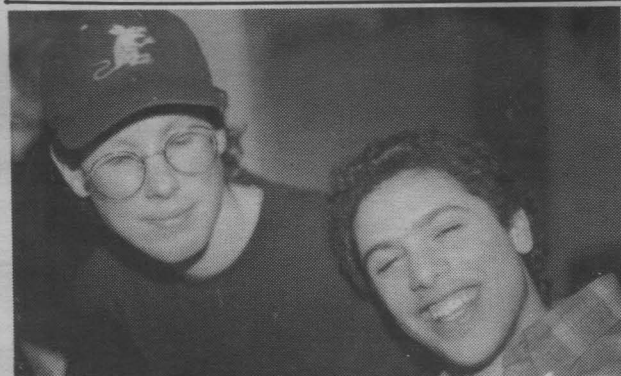
One of the major problems with the proposal is how the towns of Lee and Madbury will form their own district or districts. The "divorce" could mean that Durham would have their own middle and high schools while Lee and Madbury would either need to build new facilities or send their students to other local schools. Either way, the towns of Lee and Madbury would have dramatically higher taxes.

Another factor in the proposed separation is the splitting up of equipment, such as buses, computers, and copiers. The Lee and Madbury elementary schools use the same buses as the high school. If the split occurs, some are concerned that each town will not be given its fair share of equipment.

Durham resident Peter Steer stated, "Perhaps it's time for a divorce...but an amicable one." Along with Durham residents in support of the "divorce," several Lee residents showed support for a study on a possible separation.

Durham residents in support of separation argue that Lee and Madbury residents, have been holding back the approval of the budget and bond issues proposed for school improvements. The bonds that have been proposed were to address overcrowding in the school district. All of the bonds that have been proposed have not been ratified because of the lack of the 2/3 majority vote required.

Oyster River junior Jeff Lang feels "[The divorce] is not in the best interest of students." Diane Jennison remarked "The school would have a low enrollment and very low budget, probably resulting in the teaching staff being cut."



Hunt Howell and Mike Merenda

4 Senior Plays Open March 24

by Thomas Lanoie

Six seniors were selected to direct four one-act plays of their choice. The seniors, Mike Merenda, co-directors Beth Dell and Tammie Spencer and co-directors Kasey Evans and Hunt Howell and Chris Weisman (partnered with junior Josh Nute) are all facing a lot of hard work ahead of them.

Merenda wrote a tragi-comic rhyming play named "Gene Therapy". He now goes from playwright to director. Although he has been in plays in the past, the directorial experience is new to him, and he is "looking forward to working with a great cast."

Tammie Spencer and Beth Dell are directing "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party" by Lewis Carroll.

Chris Weisman and Josh Nute's play is called "The Train." The play is improvisational and does not involve a standard script. The play evolves psychologically with the interaction of characters.

Kasey and Hunt are doing "The Summer People" by Shirley Jackson.

Three plays are presented in an evening, each play being presented twice. This is the sixth year of senior-directed plays at Oyster River.



New inductees to the National Spanish Honor Society (L to R) Back: Roger Martin, Jess Houle, Melissa Waleryszak, Aaron Tyler, Jacquie Trotta, Carl Seid, Ben Rous. Front: Karen Gowell, Angelica Guemez, Rebecca England, Eva Curry, Megan Crow, Christy Northrop. Not pictures are new French Honor Society members Pierce Woodward, Larissa Crockett, Christine Johnson, Bianca Mobius, Tim Dee, Dan Mosley, Aaron Cass, Ashley Brown, Chris Wesley, Sarah Tanguay, and Jessica Tucker-Mohl.

Oyster River Gets Hypnotized

by Jaime Smith

A watch is swinging back and forth and you are getting very sleepy. A deep, soothing voice is echoing through your ears, you're going...going...

If you missed the hypnotist, you missed quite an experience. On January 27th, Bob Chase, a hypnotist from the New Hampton Hypnotism Clinic, visited Oyster River according to Student Council member Ted Olsen.

"He was very charismatic, and knew what he was doing," commented junior Chris Davis, one of the few chosen to be hypnotized.

From his position on the cafeteria stage, Mr. Chase started by explaining what hypnotism is. He also conveyed to the audience of both students and adults why he does it and how "it is the most

interesting thing [he has] ever done in his life."

The entertaining segment of the evening came when Mr. Chase placed the entire audience under the beginning stages of hypnosis. "It had a powerful influence over the audience," commented sophomore Christine Gsottschneider.

Six O.R. students were then taken onto the stage and put into a deeper trance. The small audience observed Chris Davis, Kim Anderson, Chris Weisman, Laurie McDowell, Jason Berndtson, Mike Pazdon, and eighth grader Ashye Woodward under the influence of hypnotism. He then made them perform goofy tasks--from eating a lemon and thinking it was an orange to hula dancing and playing the tuba.

"I remember what he told me but not what I did," replied sophomore Jason Berndtson, after being hypnotized for 1 1/2 hours.

Hypnotist cont. pg. 8

Music Department Lacks Funds

by Eric Trufant

There had been a definite slide in participation in the music program in recent years. There has been, simply put, a documentable lack of enrollment. Kalim Armstrong theorizes, "I think that the music program has fallen apart because the school does not support it."

According to Tom Lanoie, a saxophone player, "What we have to do to alleviate this problem is figure out how to stimulate interest on the part of the students and the administration."

Mrs. Brown stated, "There was more participation when music was after school. When we put all of it in the school day, it brought on a decline because students had to choose."

Mr. Laforce disagreed saying, "When I try to do things after school, so many people are involved in athletics that they still have to make choices."

The community became frustrated with the lack of music in the high school and formed a committee to address this problem. The Friends of Performance, led by Diana Carroll, has been standing in support of the performing arts since October, 1992. They raise money for music programs and bring the needs of the performing arts to the attention of the administration.

"Regardless of the budget, the music program will not improve until the students get involved," according to Cristina Chenausky, a soprano in the choral group.

Trumpet player Josh Leyden states, "Students and the music teacher need to more actively recruit other students and advertise the performing arts programs." Hopefully, if more people do get involved, enrollment and budget allowance will increase in the oncoming 1994-95 school year.

3 Qualify For National Honors

by Matt Blasik

Recently, three National Merit Scholar Finalists have been named at Oyster River: Kasey Evans, Beth Dell, and Alexia Taylor. The three seniors qualified for this honor by receiving among the highest scores in the country on the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT tests. They are now eligible for scholarships of over \$2000 per year.

According to Assistant Superintendent Al Elwell, three finalists has been the average for the past five years. In fact, students at ORHS have consistently exceeded the national average on standardized tests like the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT. Last year the national average for the SAT was a combined 902. The combined average for ORHS was 1036.

Vandals at OR

by Ben Hardy

On Tuesday, February 15, Junior Andy Dolph discovered spray painting on the inside stage wall that he knew was not related to any drama performances. He dismissed it at first until the next day, when he noticed even more vandalism and decided to bring it to the attention of Principal Ann Brown.

Brown asked him to put the "complaint" down in writing, more to have it documented and formal than for any other reason. Brown then decided to turn the investigation over to Assistant Principal Mr. Shapiro, though she did comment on the event. "I don't think there is a tie in the gangs in Oyster River [and the vandalism]." Brown says this only because she received 5 letters following the incident; letters from anonymous students that included the names of four possible suspects. According to Brown, none of the named students are known gang members.

Students involved in plays are given permission to write what are known as "play signatures", however these are two different things. Also found was the word "Caos" which may be gang related.

Student Lounge Slowed by Snags

by Christina Chenausky

Problems have developed with the set up of the student lounge. Neither Mrs. Kishbaugh nor Mr. Lofgren can predict a date for its completion.

A major problem is where to store the couches while they are being assembled until all of them are done and ready to go in the cafeteria. Mrs. Kishbaugh is unsure of the progress on the structures. Mr. Lofgren doesn't know how far along the cushions are. The two teachers do not have time in their schedules to work together on the project.

According to Mrs. Kishbaugh and Mr. Lofgren, the first couch was finished three weeks ago. Snags in the wood work, (the angle of the back wasn't right to fit the cushions properly) along with snow days, semester changes, and students having their own projects have delayed the first couch being finished. Despite the snags, Mrs. Kishbaugh expects them to be done in about a month.

Mr. Lofgren and Mrs. Kishbaugh were very reluctant to specify the date avoiding criticism as a result of not being done by a certain date. Mr. Lofgren said with a chuckle, "I'm waiting for Mrs. Kishbaugh (to finish the cushions)."

Senior Neil Bostrom questioned, "When is it going to be finished!?"

Vicky Walker said "I think they're a little late, they should have done this a long time ago."

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Tech. Committee Seeks \$115K Budget

by Brad Colson

The Technology Committee of the Oyster River School District met on March 7 to present a funding proposal to the School Board. The Committee's plan calls for \$115,000 for new hardware and technology for the Oyster River School District.

The plan requests approximately \$25,000 for new computer hardware, \$15,000 for new software, \$9-10,000 for maintenance of the computers, \$4,000 for telecommunications, and the remainder for teacher training to use the computers.

Funding for the plan will come from federal grant money [money given to ORHS by the government to fund new technology], the School District budget, and competitive grants. Mr. Gasowski, the chairman of the Technology Committee, is on sabbatical authoring requests for the competitive grant money.

"The plan has less than a 50/50 chance of passing," thinks Mr. Gasowski. Many people have different opinions about how the school should spend this money. If approved, Gasowski expects to make compromises as to exactly what the money is spent on because not all of the committee's requests will be funded. The hope is that OR will get enough funding to be brought up to par with other high schools.

Other hopes are to get an automated library to make it easier to find books, to bar code the books as the UNH library has done, and to fund computer equipment replacement.

Another plan is an introduction for students and teachers to Internet which allows for telecommunications between schools and beyond. Mr. Gasowski hopes that, eventually, each student in the high school will have an account on the Internet system.

Four students expressed feeling's that the school has up to date technology and accessibility to the computers. One student, a senior, said, "There are only a few up to date computers. The rest are about 8 years old." Another senior said, "The school has the new technology and accessibility and seems to be well off." Others said "The school is pretty up-to-date considering the size of the school, and comparing it to what larger neighboring schools have the ability to hold."

Health Fair To Highlight Good Choices

by Mike Ross

Peer Outreach will be sponsoring a Health Fair to increase awareness of issues students deal with on a daily basis. The fair will be held during the morning on Wednesday, March 23rd. All students at ORHS will participate in two 45 minute discussions on their choice of topics.

The topics being addressed are substance abuse, eating disorders, teenage stress, depression, violence, gangs, sexual harassment, date rape, suicide prevention, and health screening by Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. The speakers are volunteers from Seaborne Hospital, The Portsmouth Pavilion, U.N.H. Health Center, A Safe Place, S.H.A.R.P.P. (Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program), Eating Disorder Center, and counselors from around the Seacoast.

Peer Outreach advisors Mandy Tolson and Michelle Houseman hope the students will give the speakers and issues the respect that they deserve.

The students that have devoted their time to Peer Outreach are seniors Kasey Evans, Amanda McAuley, Hunt Howell, and Craig Allen; juniors Chris Davis, Ben Hardy, Emily Cohen, Lauren Guillet, Jen Bradley-Swift, Meg Frazer, Tammy MacLean, Sebastian Adams, Roger LaMarque, and Josh Jenkins; and sophomores Chrissie Johnson, Khriissy Cook, Marissa Cunningham, Robyn Jerard, and Fawn Veno.



Kurt Weisman on the trombone

OR Students Selected For All-State Concert

by Devin McNelly

Seven Oyster River students were named All-State Musicians. The students named to All-State were junior Susan Brandon, voice; sophomores Jen Winslow and Sarah Tanguay, violin; Rebecca England, cello; freshmen Kirby Johns, violin; and Gabe Merton, clarinet. They will participate in the All-State Music Festival at Portsmouth High School, April 14-16.

Freshman Kurt Weisman was the only student from O.R.H.S to be chosen for the All-State Jazz Band Festival February 4-6. Weisman, a trombonist, played in the second band and performed two solos for the festival.

Participants are chosen following a demanding full-day try-out requiring knowledge of scales and rhythms.

NEWSBRIEFS

Sebastian Adams has contacted the White House to request the opportunity to shadow President Bill Clinton. A press release regarding Adams' proposal was printed in Foster's Daily Democrat, the Boston Herald, Boston Globe, and the Manchester Union Leader. Adams has conducted an interview with Barb Franzosa, a personal friend of the Clintons. Sebastian is still awaiting a response.

-Josh Leyden

Home Economics and P.E. are teaming up to offer two new courses next year: "Personal Health & Fitness" and "Sports Nutrition Training and Health". Mrs. Kishbaugh said that the courses "will focus on the impact of nutrition, fitness and lifestyle choices on our daily lives."

-Aaron Major

Oyster River High students have the option of graduating early if they meet the school's requirements for credits and course requirements. This year ORHS has four early graduates: Jen Garvey, Amy Andrews, Tammie Spencer, and Amy Matthews.

In past years a committee made decisions regarding early graduation, but currently the decision rests with the principal and the students' individual guidance counselors.

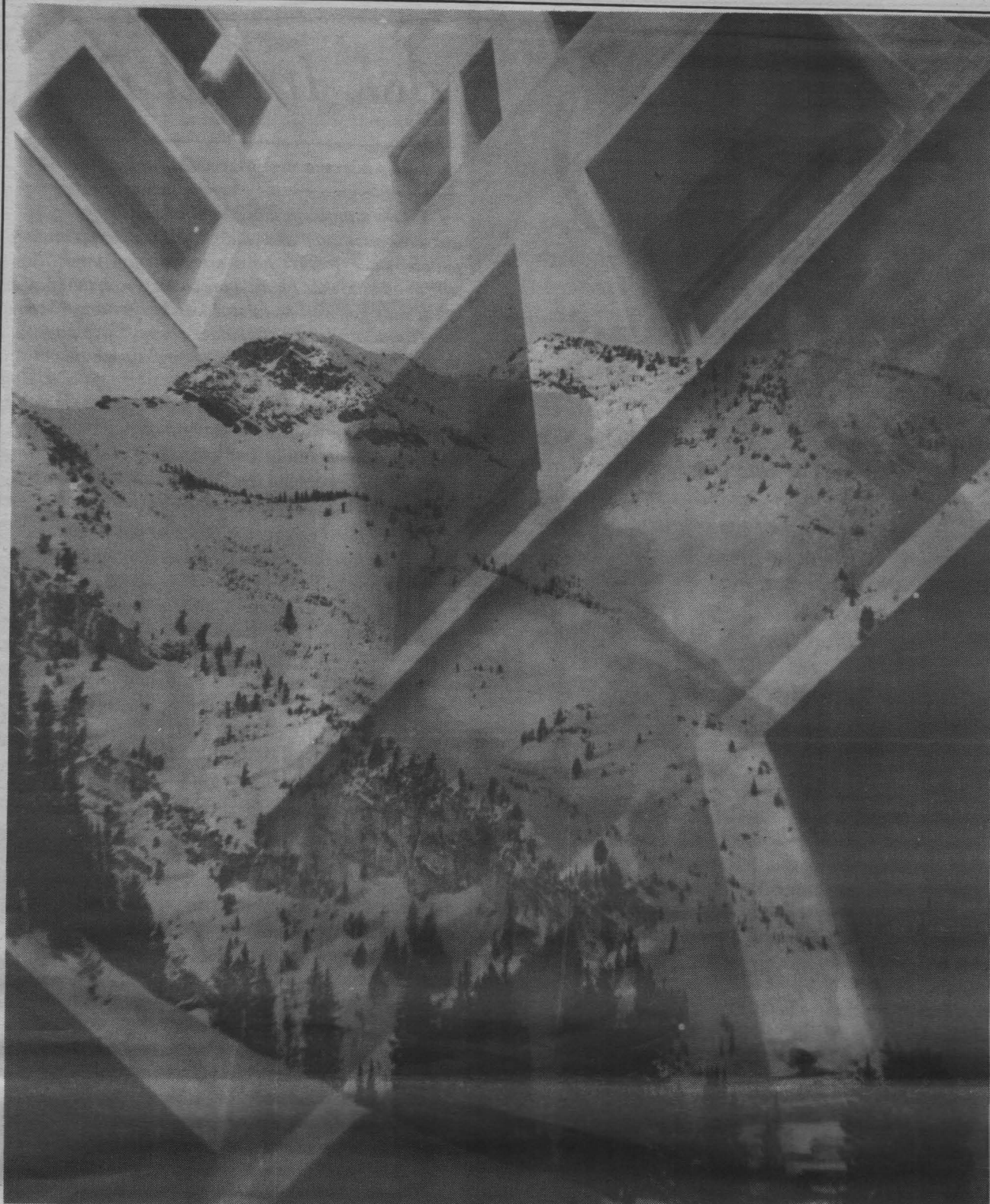
-Corey Stacy

Marni Thibault and Seth DeForrest were recently selected to direct Senior Follies. The Follies, a venerable ORHS traditon, will be held April 14 & 15.

-MOR Staff

March 1994

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 District Meeting	3 Nat'l French Exam Teachers submit warnings	4	5
6 ORYA 12-4 PM	7	8 Caf 1/2 Closed Town Elections - All day and PM	9 Short Wednesday	10	11 ORMS Musical Caf 7:30	12 ORMS Musical Caf 7:30 ORYA Gym 8-4 PM
13 ORYA Gym 8-4 PM	14 Clam Slam 2:45-5	15 Clam Slam 2:45-5 Jrs.-Parents Plng. Night-Lib 7 PM	16 Clam Slam 2:45-5 FDDC-Lib 7 PM	17 Clam Slam 2:45-5 Music Concert Caf 7 PM St Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21 Clam Slam	22	23 SADD/Peer Outreach Health Fair	24 Senior One-Acts 7:30 PM	25 Senior One-Acts 7:30 PM	26 Senior One-Acts 7:30 PM
27	28 SENIOR REHEARSALS	29 SENIOR REHEARSALS	30 SENIOR REHEARSALS	31 SENIOR REHEARSALS		



Kalim's Funky Pic

Darkroom Opens ...Photo Buffs Rejoice

by Dave Diller

Calling all photography buffs, there is now a new darkroom for developing black and white pictures located in the back of the music room.

Mr. Tappan took the initiative to purchase the equipment and chemicals from the parent of an OR student. The cost was \$150 and was paid for by The Mouth of the River (MOR). Some paper and chemicals were donated by Mr. Perry.

This year, the darkroom will be used mostly for MOR. Next year, Mr. Tappan said he hopes to "get it stocked with chemicals and paper using the school's budget so it could be available to other teachers for extracurricular and class activities."

There are three major benefits for MOR to have the use of a darkroom. First, students will have the experience of going through the entire process of taking pictures, developing them, and putting them in the paper. Second, when developing photos with professionals, it can take approximately a week for the photos to return. This should speed up the process. Third, Mr. Tappan believes the dark room will cut the cost of

photographs by 50%. Photography costs for each issue should now come up to about \$30.

Students Josh Burt and Kalim Armstrong worked together setting up the darkroom. They are both involved in independent studies in photography.

Junior, Josh Burt is working with the UNH paper, The New Hampshire. His major project will be a portfolio of 115 of his best photos and a discussion of them.

Sophomore, Kalim Armstrong is mostly taking pictures for Mouth of the River and is also attempting to set up an independent study with Foster's Daily Democrat.

From 1989 to 1990 there was a darkroom in the same space as the present new one. It was used mostly by Mr. Denson, the old music and theater teacher. When he left, the darkroom became a storage room.

The next darkroom was put in by Mr. and Mrs. Perry for the yearbook. It was retired shortly thereafter due to poor ventilation.

If using the darkroom interests you, contact Mr. Tappan.

O.R. "SENATE" Under Debate

by Jen Bradley-Swift

A Student-Faculty Senate may replace Oyster River High School's Student Council next year, designed to give students more say in the way their school is run. A concept suggested by many, the proposed Senate is now closer to reality due primarily to the work of seniors Amanda McAuley and Neil Bostrom, and junior Josh Burt.

Meeting every week for the first few months of the year, McAuley, Bostrom, and Burt drafted a constitution for the proposed Senate and presented it to faculty and administration in early December. The charter is a format "that more accurately represents the groups that impact the school," says McAuley, Oyster River's current Student Council President and member of the Advisory Council.

The Preamble to the proposed constitution says the Student-Faculty Senate was constructed "for the improvement and well-being of our school, the need for a union of forces in our school to work and communicate together, and to have an open school-wide relationship as to the steady improvement of our common ground, Oyster River High School."

According to the proposed constitution, the Student-Faculty Senate will include a school administrator, as well as students and a number of faculty members elected by the faculty. School Board members and parents will also hold seats. This format, explain its creators, would increase communication between students and adults.

To increase communication and accessibility to the student government, the Senate will have more representatives than the present Student Council. The number of student representatives, as suggested in the proposed constitution, would be based on the number of homerooms held by the largest class in the school. Each class would have that number of representatives, and there would be at least one representative for each homeroom.

McAuley, Bostrom, and Burt stress the fact that their constitution is just the starting point. They expect many suggestions, new ideas, and revisions to the draft. The success of the proposed Senate, says McAuley, "depends on the support of the students--everyone--or otherwise it will never fly."

According to its creators, there was little opposition to the proposed plan. Some people worry over the fate of the activities presently organized by Student Council, though. Bostrom, Student Representative to the School Board said a collection of student representatives "should be a

Senate cont. on pg. 8

Burt Voted Board Rep

by Jamie Davenport

Josh Burt was elected new school board representative this past March 4. Burt will inform the student council on all current decisions that deal with the ORHS system made by the school board. His other responsibilities include attending all school board meetings and making sure students' thoughts, concerns, and ideas are conveyed to the board of education.

Former School Board Representative Neil Bostrom said, "The major importance of having the School Board Rep. is to make sure the school board itself acquires information of the current student body of our school. Another is to make sure we (the students) aren't shafted from the board's decisions."

The job of liaison between the board and the students is a difficult one, especially in light of the different agendas of the board and student council. Burt still hopes to overcome obstacles and be an effective representative.

"I really wanted this," said Josh, "and I hope that I can bring out the info to the community, board, and the school on individual's thoughts. I don't think that the board and community really know what the students feel. It's definitely a lot of work [but] I'm doing what I hoped to do."

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"All I Want Is a Quiet Little Niche"

HELLLOOOO?! One question we ask, one answer we seek. What the hoot is goin' down with our illustrious promised lounge? We don't know! Maybe it's me, but I, a senior, have been hearing about an alleged student lounge since my freshman year. It was supposed to have nice fluffy pillows and couches with bright, cheery plaid patterns. That was four years ago, my friends. George Bush was still a popular President then. Snoop Doggy Dogg was still sweeping floors at Wal-Mart. Four years of our hopes being built up to the roof of the cafeteria and now having them crash to pieces, scattered across the floor like so many squashed ring dings.

As of now, our sole places to keep our precious bodies are: the library, the Courtyard and the cafeteria. God forbid, should you be found in the hall. Certain hall monitors tend to be a bit less friendly than one would hope for, often resembling the Junn horde leader in the movie "Beastmaster". Humbug. Let's take a step back.

The library. It's fine if you like to be "shushed" after every word you say over one decibel. Hey, and what gives with that gook that's been so nicely splattered on the windows...and why can't it be cleaned off? Is it invincible gook? We think not.

The Courtyard. Hmmm...great place to hang out, especially in the sub-zero weather we've had this winter. You know, not every school courtyard has removable patio bricks and such lavish cement sewers. And don't you just love engaging in sentimental conversations over crooked, over-filled trash cans? We sure do.

Lastly the Caf. Woossss! We would really like to meet the interior decorator of that fine room. Say, that's a really nice circus tent. Is it Persian? No? Oh. And by the way, that painting in the corner is, well...it leaves something to be desired, doesn't it? I'm fairly sure that the consensus of O.R. ranks it as, un peu laid, peut-etre? (Ask Ms. Smith for a translation, or attempt to locate one of those wandering Frenchmen that were here recently, like Oliver, or Oliver) According to one anonymous student, that "AWFUL" thing has actually forced her to sit with her back to that entire wall while she eats. She just can't stomach the gore. A bit harsh, perhaps, but never the less, an opinion representing those of the silent majority.

Anyway, not to beat a dead interior decorator, but please, do we make our point clear? We want space. Not much, mind you, but enough to allow more than a few people to relax and hang out when the pressures of Oysta Riva become insurmountable. A quiet little niche to enjoy a warm cup of cappuccino and a game of Yahtzee.

Yes, my friends, there is a dream at stake here today...a dream held by many, but whose future lies in the hands of a mere few. You, sons and daughters of Cochecho...realize that we may not all be here to see the dream become a reality...let our efforts not be in vain...ask not what your lounge can do for you, but what you can do for your lounge...be all that you can be...and, of course, Remember the Alamo.

Ask Imma Pal

by Lori Andersen and Meredith Armitage

I have a problem that's kind of embarrassing. I am a sophomore, and one day I woke up in a puddle, since I don't have a waterbed, I think it's safe to assume that I have a problem. From that day on, it only got worse. First it was bed-wetting, then it was random losses of bladder control. It's gotten to the point where I have a pee bag strapped to my leg. I need your help.

This problem is not uncommon for freshman, but by the time you are a sophomore you should have everything under control. There are many cures for this problem, (i.e. pills, shock treatment). Try to drink less liquids and consult your physician.

My girlfriend expects too much of me. We make plans to be together and talk on the phone for hours yet she seems to think that we never spend any time with each other. How can I explain to her that I'm doing the best that I can, and that I need some time to spend with my friends and family too?

Just be straight forward with her, that is the best thing for your relationship. If she doesn't understand try to tell her that it's not that you don't want to spend time with her it's just that you need some time to be with your friends and family in order to keep the closeness that you share with them. The worst thing that you can do is feel bad about not spending that much time with her, and give up your friends, friends are for the long run and relationships come and go, you don't want to endanger that.

I am a fifteen year old boy that looks like every other kid, but I'm afraid I am much different. I like dressing up in my sister's lingerie and dancing around to "Solid Gold". I realize that there is nothing wrong with being different, but I can't help thinking that I've been stuck in the wrong body...I want to be able to go to Ladies Night at Pure Platinum, to walk into panty shops without having to use the excuse "it's for my girlfriend". HELP!

Everybody is different, that's what makes people unique. The most important thing is for people to be happy with themselves. You really ought to look in the mirror and say, "I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggonnit, people like me!"

NICOTINE ALLEY

by BRIAN CHASE & Co.



What IS a Feminist?

Commentary by Jenna Sunderland

Feminism and guy bashing: is it the same thing? In the eyes of most, apparently so. Sadly enough, feminists have gotten a bad reputation over the years. The word "feminist" has become taboo, and its definition has shifted from equality for women to the superiority of women. "I don't put up with any of that bra-burning-communist-feminazi [stuff]," said one male junior.

Out of students surveyed at Oyster River, less than half considered themselves feminists. Strangely enough, those who denied being feminists were unclear on the definition of the word.

The feminist movement was begun for the purpose of achieving equality for women. The idea of equality of the sexes was something that all those surveyed could agree with, though many of the males still had trouble calling themselves feminists. Another claimed, "I agree that men and women should be equal, but I'm not a feminist. I'm a chauvinist." claimed a slightly more confused student.

Many stated that society's portrayal of women's rights advocates was very negative. Those interviewed felt that society presents the focus of the feminist movement as the fight for female power, forcing males down in the process.

So when did feminist beliefs turn into guy-bashing? More importantly, can we retrain ourselves to see feminists in a more positive light, or is it too late?

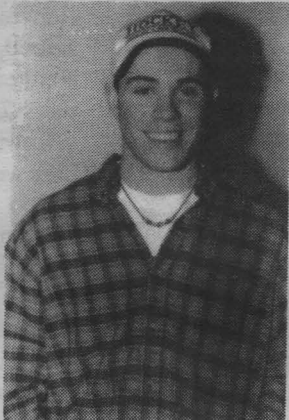
You take my space, I brake yo' face!

Underclassmen are at it again--What would you do with senior parking violators?

Welcome to a new column in The Mouth of the River. Each issue we will feature a new question with your creative answers. If you have any ideas for this column, speak to anyone involved with MOR.



"Break up their cars and sell the parts." Chris Davis



"Tar and feather them." Matt Blasik



"Hurt 'em, kill 'em." Caleb Brown



"They make the decision, we should tow them." Mrs. Brown

When The Moon Is In The 7th House

by Julie Wourgiotis

Pisces (February 20 - March 19) The Fish
It's been a stressful time for you lately so relax this weekend by taking a nice bubble bath in your natural element. Turn the lights down low, burn a few candles, and start that novel you've wanted to for so long but have been putting off because you're "too busy". Fellow Pisces include: Sally Jessy Raphael, Harriet Tubman, & Sly Stallone.

Aries (March 20 - April 19) The Ram
Never known to be shy, the Ram usually takes control of a situation. Dominating over your opposite, the Scorpio, could be dangerous so ease up and if you need to compromise, do it. Don't let your stubborn personality take over! Fellow Rams include: Johann Sebastian Bach, Eric Clapton & David Letterman.

Taurus (April 20 - May 19) The Bull
Much like the Ram, the Bull has been known for its stubborn qualities. Don't be tempted to charge should someone wave a red flag in your direction. Surprise the matador and wave a red flag of your own. Fellow Bulls include: Shirley Temple, Sigmund Freud, & Malcolm X.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20) The Twins
Separate from your companion for a little.(Perhaps while you're at Disney World, L.M.) Even though the Twins share, take a little extra for yourself. After about a week, give a little and in return, both of you will enjoy each other's company all the more. Fellow Geminis include: Marilyn Monroe, Walt Whitman, & Steffi Graf.

Cancer (June 21 - July 19) The Crab
Lighten up! Don't be so stingy and maybe people will appreciate your presence more. Your temper needs to be calmed so relax by seeing a movie - preferably a comedy - or have a fun night out on the town with some friends. Watch what you say and how you say it. Fellow Crabs include: Mike Tyson, Geraldo, & Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Leo (July 20 - August 19) The Lion
Don't try too hard to be king of the jungle but don't back down too much. Allowing others too much room to walk may result in you being their door mat. Don't forget, your film is coming out in June of '95 - The Lion King. Fellow Leos include: Ernest Hemingway, Bill Clinton, & Andy Warhol.

Virgo (August 20 - September 20) The Corn Maiden
You're known as a gentle and caring person. Still care for your family, home, and friends, but go a little while. Do something special for a special Aquarian, your opposite, that you know they'll be pleased with and you won't believe the response you'll get. Fellow Virgos include: Mother Teresa, Peter Jennings, & Oliver Stone.

Libra (September 21 - October 19) The Scales of Justice
Known to be great compromisers, Librans can enjoy the luxury of never taking sides and instead coming up with a treaty that both sides agree upon. So use your ability to prevent potential disagreements by taking advantage of your fortunate quality. Fellow Librans include: Luciano Pavarotti, e.e. cummings, & Art Garfunkel.

Scorpio (October 20 - November 21) The Scorpion
Known to bring misunderstood fears, clear your mind by taking it easy this month. Rid of any paranoia or phobias by anticipating mental tests. Pass these tests by thinking logically and staying in only the areas that you have problems with. Don't wander and wind up worse than you began. Fellow Scorpions include: Picasso, Calvin Klein, & Maria Shriver.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) The Archer
Optimism and enthusiasm are two qualities of Sagittarians. Use them well! Be the person to trigger any events coming up and organize them as best you can. Allow these fortunes to rub off on to others, they'll appreciate it. Fellow Sagittarians include: Jimi Hendrix, Walt Disney, & Larry Bird.

We Can't Blame T.V. For Violence

Commentary by Thomas Lanoie

Violence on TV. A legitimate disease that plagues this country or just a feeble excuse for the instability of America?

With the recent uprise of violent crime in America, people have been looking for the common factor that is causing people to go out and commit such heinous crimes. The popular answer? Violence on television. Whether it's a child burning his own home down or a grown man shooting his wife and family, it seems that the crime can always be traced back to a show or movie that influenced the criminal in one way or another. Lately the answer has changed from "society" to "Beavis and Butthead" and "NYPD Blue". Is this realistic? Is this the solution? Is it actually possible that the problems of America are caused by a cartoon on MTV?

Violence Cont. On Pg.9

Mouth of the River
A Publication of ORHS Journalism

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Cont. On Pg.9

BUDGET cont. from pg. 1

Junior Jason Bennington spoke in favor of the amendment. Because Bennington is not of voting age, he had to receive permission from the Board and the rest of the voters before presenting his speech. "[The School Board] can't deny student needs," he said before giving his speech to the voters.

180 student signatures were collected by Bennington on a petition opposing the proposed administration cuts, circulated the day of the district meeting. He thought there would have been more names if more students had been aware of the situation.

Bennington said "Oyster River has a reputation for high academic excellence, and if the community expects this to continue, it will have to fund it.... Students feel they can talk to Ms. Winterbottom and Mr. Shapiro."

High School Principal Ann Draper Brown was concerned cutting administration could possibly compromise student safety. She predicts an increase of 80 students in overall enrollment next year. "I understand that the budget process is difficult," she said, but "it is hypocritical for a district that broke ground with the philosophy of individualized education to call for cutting everything except the bare necessities."

At a finance committee meeting held last January, Brown listed the duties of an assistant principal: student supervision and discipline, staff evaluation and observing classes, and visibility in the halls and cafeteria. In addition, Winterbottom serves as a counselor and in the guidance department. Shapiro's work is more technical: organizing bell schedules, and scheduling students' classes.

Lewis said, "[Brown] just didn't convince me." He felt the second assistant principal position at the high school was unnecessary, especially because the proposed second assistant principal position at the grades 5-8 middle school was cut. Student Representative to the School Board Neil Bostrom agreed, saying "everyone has to give a little bit." Neither expected the budget would pass without the 1.7 F.T.E. cut.

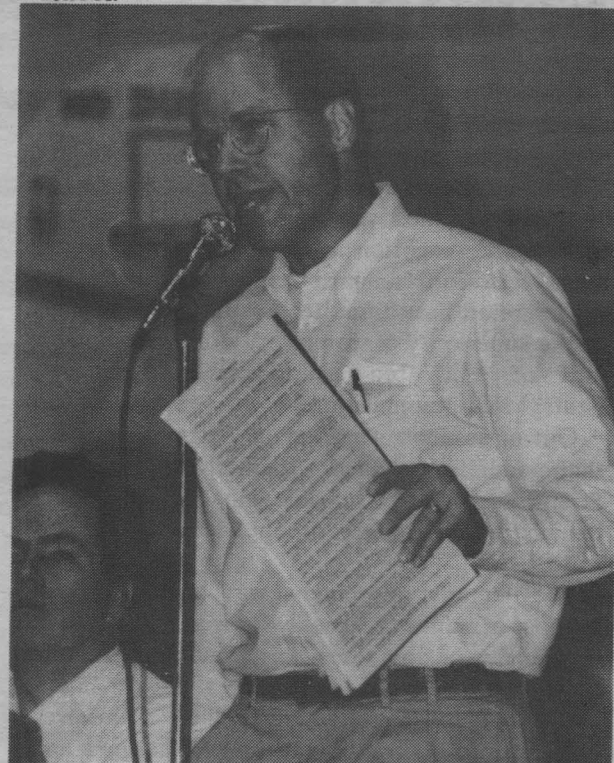
Lewis finished his argument saying "We did the best we could. Now it's your turn to decide."

Bob Hughes of Lee opposed the amendment, agreeing with Lewis that the cut "is not engraved in stone." He thought the administration position could possibly be replaced by an "assistant guidance counselor.... Why can't it be a lower salary individual?" he asked.

After the budget was passed, with the \$80,000 restored, Lewis said "If the community wants to pay, great.... I thought the judgement I made was the right one. I'm not perfect." Lewis also

congratulated Bennington on a job well done.

Brown said "I'm so surprised and so thrilled...parents really came out in support of the school."



Mr. Hardy Addresses OR District Meeting

SENATE from pg. 5

When the constitution was presented, it was suggested Student Council auction off their yearly activities to other clubs. This would allow Student Council to focus on the transition from Council to Senate. There were no takers, though, and the Council put away its Senate work to organize things like the Sadie Hawkins Dance.

If the format is changed from Student Council to Student-Faculty Senate, would the Advisory Council (this year's new panel of teachers, parents, students and school board members) be necessary? McAuley speculated the Council might be needless. "The Advisory Council is working to establish a system for future changes of this kind--which could be a Senate."

Burt disagreed. The two organizations would be "totally different things" and could co-exist, he said. He noted the Advisory Council's main objective is to form a final draft of the "Vision Statement," and is dedicated to more "long-range planning" than the proposed Senate.

Faculty members, says McAuley, are "very supportive" of the proposed Senate. English teacher Elizabeth Dodge is very enthusiastic about the idea. "Why not?" she said. "[The students] are the largest members of the community...and have a vested interest" in what happens around them. A Student Senate, she said, would give students respect, making them "other than just pawns, or whatever they consider themselves now."

Dodge listed possible responsibilities for the Senate. Suggestions included "re-doing the student handbook," "reviewing School Board policy," and fixing the "atmosphere of the school." Another suggested responsibility, currently in the constitution but still up for debate, is judicial review or mediation for solving "disputes between students, faculty, and administration."

Dodge added that the Senate may take a while to get fully organized, "maybe as long as a year." But she also said the end product will have a lot of power, and quite a few people will have "a vested interest." "You have to educate everyone involved" and understand the possible consequences for having so much power, she said, "it takes time to see where the ripples are going."

McAuley hopes elections for next year's Student Senate representatives will be held this spring, present eight-graders included, so that things will get moving next year beginning in September.

GANGS from pg. 1

The Crips' "colors" are blue bandannas that they sometimes wear hanging out of their back pocket. According to DeGloria, some of these freshman flaunt blue bandannas but have not gone through initiation to actually join the Crips.

"My initiation," said one sophomore Crips member, "was a 45 second beat-down by the leader [of the Oyster River Crips]." In other words, he let himself get beaten up for 45 seconds, was not allowed to fight back, and had to be standing at the end. Initiations varied for each member. Sometimes initiation lasted only a minute, sometimes two. "In L.A.," says DeGloria, "you have to shoot somebody."

What is it about these gangs that are so appealing? "It depends on the gang you're in," said an anonymous freshman Crip. "If you're in the Crips, you're there to watch each other's back. If you're a Blood, you're in it to make money."

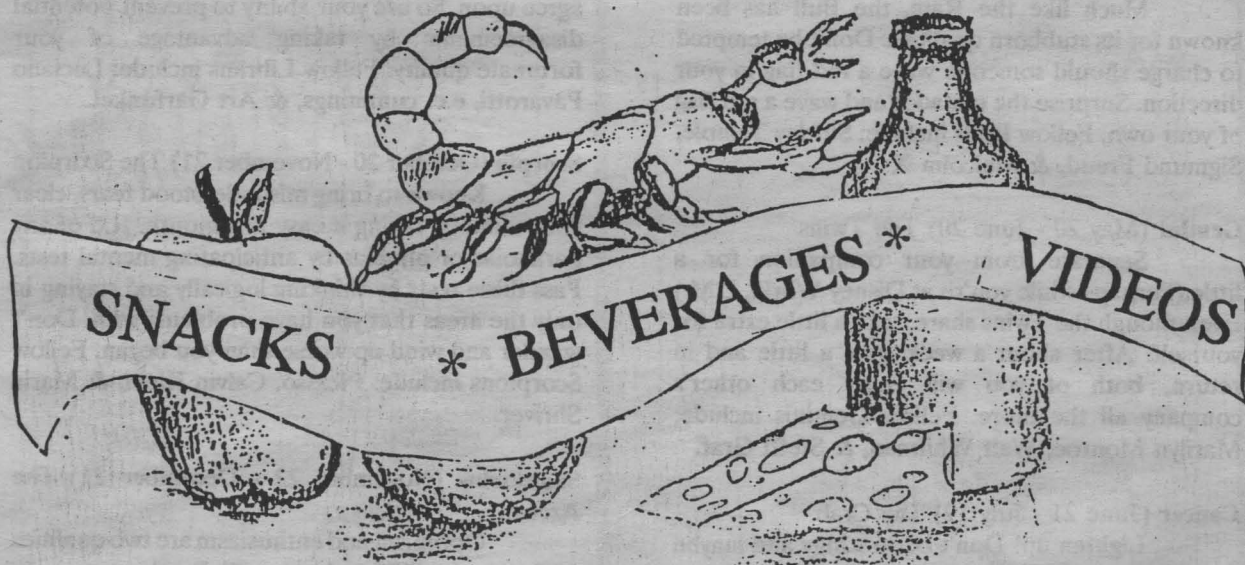
Make money? The Bloods are a rival gang known nationally for their distribution of illegal drugs. "There are no Bloods in Oyster River," said the sophomore Crips member. In fact, the only nearby school that has any Bloods is Portsmouth.

Historically there has been a fierce rivalry between the Bloods and the Crips--a typical gang "war" that began in L.A. and found its way to the East Coast. Now, however, a truce exists between the two gangs, eliminating the possibility of any

gang confrontations in our school. What's more, not one Crip member in Oyster River has been caught in school with the possession of a weapon. The sophomore member claims, "We never bring weapons into school. There's no need for them."

That's in school; what about outside of school? The anonymous freshman Crip said, "If I go down to Boston I do [carry a piece]." When out of school, these members generally congregate at Happy Wheels or the Fox Run Mall in Newington. As long as they don't migrate to Store 24 in Durham, it seems that the real "gang-scene" is fairly removed from the lives of OR students.

So what does the future hold in store for the Crips in Oyster River? Will their ranks flourish with each new year bringing bus-loads of freshmen to our school? Or will the members finally decide that there is no purpose to having a gang in our school? And what do the administrators think? Are they as oblivious to these "gangsters" as much of the school is? Principal Ann Brown knows they exist, but she doesn't believe that they are really "Crips." "I can't believe that someone flew from L.A. and inducted 9th graders from Durham, Lee and Madbury into a gang," said Brown. The fact is, the Crips on the East Coast don't consider themselves affiliated in any way to the L.A. gang. The only connection is with other Crips branches in Florida and Boston. Still, Brown says that she is "wary, but not nervous. As long as they don't start believing in their own mythology, they won't be a threat to our school."

SCORPIO'S PROVISIONS

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HYPNOTIST from pg. 3

When asked if they would do it again, Kim Anderson captured the feeling of most of the people on stage by saying, "I would do it again, but in a more private environment."

The presentation was not only entertainment but it also proved to benefit many students. Sophomore Amy Howell stated, "It was a little crazy, but it was a good cultural experience."

DJ Stands up Sadie

by Andrew Gault

On February 11th, the Sadie Hawkins Dance was threatened by snow for the sixth year in a row. In spite of the weather, those in attendance thought the dance was a success.

Sadie Hawkins, a tradition which was originated in the comic strip 'Lil Abner, is an opportunity for ladies to ask the gents. "I think it's fun," admitted Dawn Igoe, "Girls can ask out the guys, and since everyone is doing it, it doesn't start an Oyster Rumor!"

Held in the cafeteria, with the D.J., A Perfect Mix, stationed on the stage, OR danced the night away. Both students and chaperones were looking their best and seemed to be enjoying themselves. The highlight of the night was the arrival of a stretch limousine, carrying an OR student and his date. "It was exciting to see someone get all decked out and souped up for the occasion," commented junior Jay Belmore.

Following a Sadie's tradition, many OR couples began the evening with dinner. Seniors Quincy Souza and Seth DeForest dined at the Firehouse in Dover. "It was a nice beginning to a wonderful evening," exclaimed DeForest.

Many people were disappointed with the D.J. and his musical selections. Junior Ryan Bellabona responded negatively, "He played more crap than all the other dances put together." The D.J. was also an hour tardy on his arrival. "Where was dat D.J. when I wanted to jam?" Sophomore Keith Friel questioned, "But when we he got there, I was boom boom shakin da room."

Despite the complaints about the D.J., and complications with the snow, the dance was a hit. Junior Jamie Mercier wrapped up the evening by commenting, "It was fun if you made it fun."

Goodbye Mrs.
Provencher
We'll Miss
you

Horoscope Cont. From Pg.7

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) The Mountain Goat

Do some hiking this year and enjoy the outdoors. Known for its conservation and practical efforts, the Goat often ends up the last one standing. Lift yourself to new heights of authority by ignoring any snide remarks you may hear. Fellow Capricorns include: Rudyard Kipling, Anthony Hopkins, & Joan of Arc.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 19) The Water Bearer

Shovel yourself out this winter. Being the Water Bearer, you enjoy H2O in all its forms. Watch out for any form of heat that could evaporate your self-confidence. Buy some of Handel's water music and bask in its fluid melodies. Fellow Aquarians include: Michael Jordan, Vanna White, & Dan Quayle.

BAD FOR YOU? from pg. 2

across the street? According to students, "It's fun", "I'm addicted", "It releases tension", "I'm hooked", "Something to do", and "Smoking and drinking are closely related. If you do one, most likely you do the other."

Some who are really addicted to smoking don't limit themselves to before and after school hours. School nurse Peg Reeves believes that if smoking in the bathroom was completely eliminated, the number of students who smoke would decrease. She also thinks that a \$100 fine would help them stop even faster.

On the subject of drinking in school, Senior Tye Taylor said, "Drinking in school is done discreetly, not by groups of people, but individual alcoholics."

Nilson Cont. From Pg.1

He is involved in many activities, which include: illustrating a book called Take Your Kids to Europe, writing a book about his childhood life, working for the university teaching outdoor education. He also is working for Time Warner doing 140 quick sketches of people per day. "No question I'm the fastest artist around," he remarked, after all, he is the only two handed artist at OR.

Various teachers are covering his classes now. Mr. Herlihy is teaching psychology, Mrs. Pomerleau is covering for sociology, and Mr. Scott is teaching Mr. Nilson's mathematics classes: Informal Geometry, Application to Math II, and Algebra I. Mrs. Lauten also teaches Algebra I. All art classes are currently being taught by Mr. Childs.

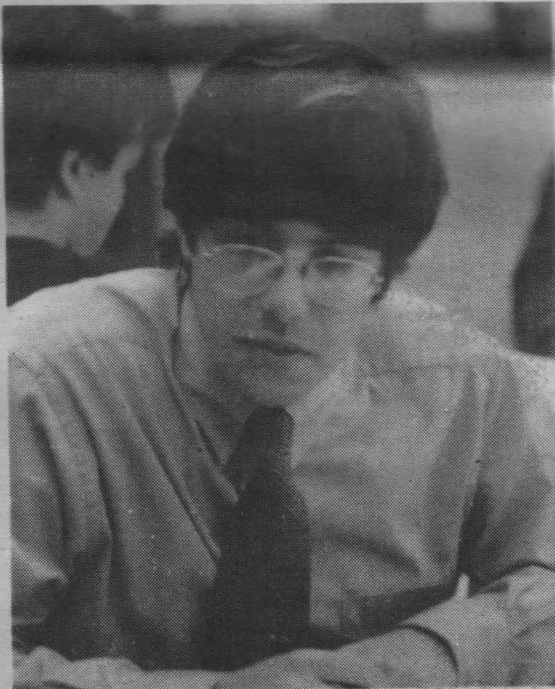
Mr. Nilson has been a meaningful part of Oyster River for the last 25 years and we will all remember him fondly. Now he can devote all of his time to art.

Violence Cont. From Pg.7

No. It's not, so stop fooling yourself. This reasoning is irrational and reveals a trace of America's collective insanity. Is it likely that the hate crimes started as a result of a cartoon aired by MTV showing two teenagers playing baseball with a frog? Not very. So people ask: "If it's not TV, what's the cause of all these crimes?" It's called a chemical imbalance...look into it.

If someone is so messed up in the head that their actions are actually influenced by a cartoon, they don't belong in a room with a TV. The kind of room they belong in has nothing but lots and lots of thick white padding.

I'm not here to offer a solution to the violence problem in America. Nor am I saying that everyone will be a better person if they watch "Beavis and Butthead". I am simply saying that taking this show and other "influential shows" off the air will only serve to cause a lot of commotion and grief with the industry and mask a larger and more pressing problem.



Mr. Landau, whose mother is a Taurus.

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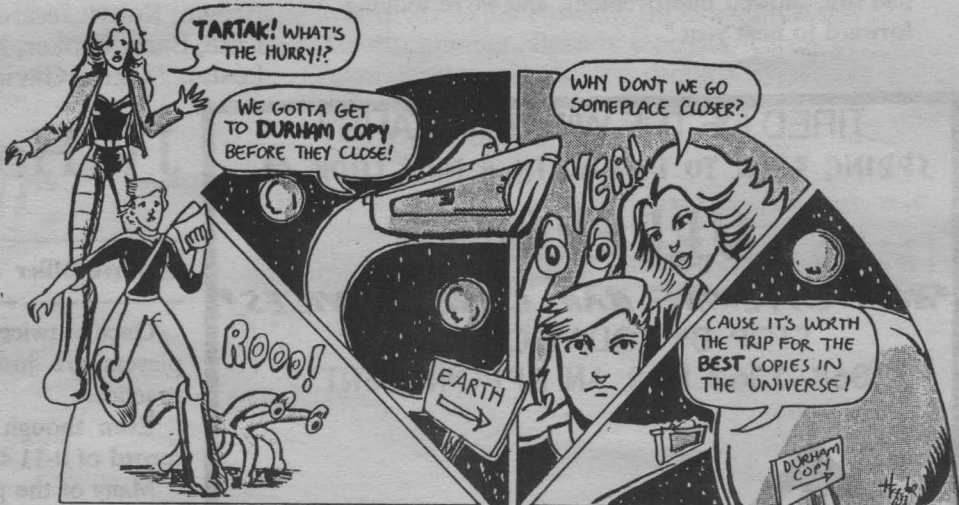
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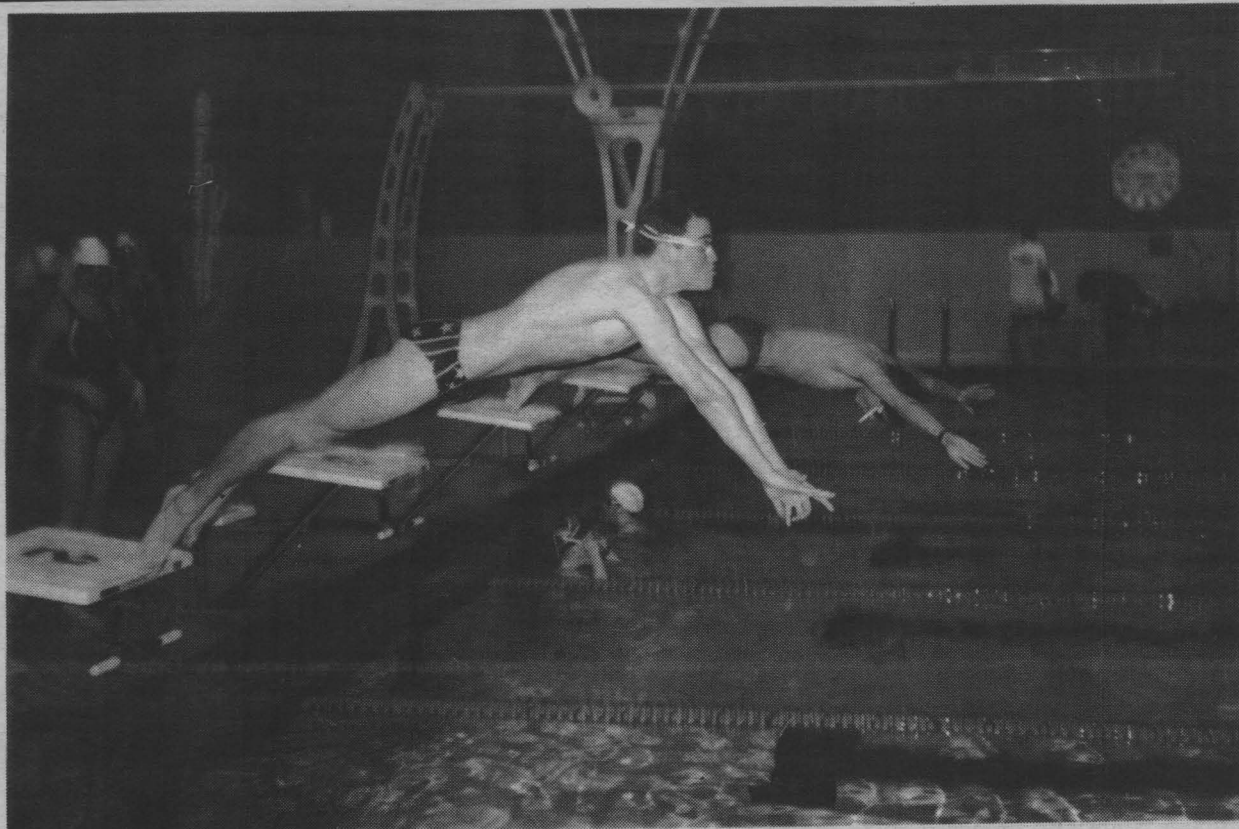
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Sophomore Barry Croker takes the plunge

Girls' Track 3rd in Class I; Boys Hang in There

by Matt Blasik

The boys' and girls' winter track teams had different experiences this season. The girls found themselves having a little more success than the boys.

The highlight of the girls' season was finishing third in class I. The team also took eighth in the state meet. Freshman standout Beth Kraft placed second in the 3000 at the state meet, and qualified for the regional meet to be held at Harvard University.

"Our team was young this year, but we had a lot of talent" said Ashling Lamarque. The girls' team had 15 underclassmen on the 19 girl squad, and they are looking to improve on their positions in the class and the state meet next year.

The members of the girls' winter track team, which is coached by Allison Cohen, are: senior captain Ashling LaMarque, Jillian Downey, Charlotte Berndtson, Mary Beth Nazarro, Caroline Anderson, Erin Bostrom, Megan Crow, Bonnie Curry, Kim Hansen, Christy Northrop, Amanda Bissell, Lindsay Doliver, Kate Gagne, Katie Jentes, Beth Kraft, Lucia Nazarro, Lori Neubauer, Emma Torbert, and Adrienne Weir.

The members of the boys' indoor track team, which is coached by Joe Scascitelli, are: Neil Bostrom, Andy Moon, Jon March, Jon LaBrie, Ryan Pemberton, and Troy Zezula.

The boys' team struggled this year competing against much larger schools. "It's hard to score more points than a team like Nashua who has over 30 members," said senior Andy Moon.

JV Girls Break 500

by Jamie Mercier

The girls' J.V. basketball team ends their season with a 10-9 record. There was an improvement from a record of 3-13 one year ago.

"Hanover was the worst game we played," said Kim Jennison. Hanover was up 27 to 0 at the end of the first quarter. "They had the best defense we've ever seen," Katherine Fernald commented. The end score was 54 to 9.

Kim Jennison attributes the team's improvement to experience. "We work better as a team, than we have in the past." She also feels that "it is one of the few teams that I've been on where we all get along."

Steve Tullar, the head coach of the girls' J.V. team said, "Making basketball a priority, when we're focused, we can play with anybody." The coach summed up the season by saying, "I think we had fun, showed improvement, and we're looking forward to next year."



1993-4 SWIM TEAM Back row L to R: Kirby Johns, Megan Frazer, Fawn Veno, Holly Brown, Robyn Jerard, Kelly Watson, Stacey Chretien, Kate Sanders. Front row: Kelly Cote, Barry Croker, Jeff MacLean, Karen Humphrey, Kelley DeForrest, Tammy MacLean, Leslaw Mazuk, Gavin Kane, Jessica Tucker-Mohl.

O.R SWIMMERS RIDE WAVE TO 4TH

Sophomore Jessica Tucker-Mohl led the Oyster River swim team to a fourth place finish, just 4 points out of third place and 7 points out of second. Tucker-Mohl broke the meet, state, and pool records in the 200 and 500 yard freestyle at the New Hampshire High School Invitational Swimming and Diving Championships at the U.N.H. Field House February 12.

Two weeks ago, Jessica was featured on the WMUR-TV channel 9 News segment called "Hometown Hero." She was interviewed after practice at the Dover pool where she had recently broken two state records. "I felt a little strange," she said. "They wanted to interview me right out of the water."

The 16 member team from Oyster River, coached by Mike Paratto, was led by Tucker-Mohl, Kate Sanders (fourth in the 200 and 500 free), Mike Lewis (second in the 500 free, fourth in the 200 free), Barry Croker (fourth in the 50 free, fifth in the 100 free), and Gavin Kane (sixth in the 200 Individual Medley, and fifth in the 100 butterfly).

The team also turned in strong relay performances. The girls' 200 yard medley relay placed sixth, composed of Kelly Watson, Kelly DeForest, Tammy MacLean, and Megan Frazer. Tucker-Mohl, Sanders, Frazer and Watson placed fourth in the 200 yard freestyle relay. Also placing fourth was the girls' 400 yard freestyle relay, made up of Tucker-Mohl, Sanders, DeForest, and Kirby Johns. On the boys side, Kane, Lewis, Croker and Jeff MacLean swam to second place in both the 200 and 400 yard freestyle relays.

The Bobcats were very happy with their success at the State meet. "I'm very proud of the team," said junior tri-captain Tammy MacLean, "we worked very hard and it paid off."

With no seniors to lose to graduation, the team's prospects for next year look very good. "I think next year we'll do better because we've matured as a team. This year we were pretty young," explained sophomore Kelly Watson.

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JV Hockey Stays Up in Down Season

by Dave Diller

Once or twice a week at 4:30 a.m. the JV hockey players are just getting up in order to get to practice.

Even though the team is high spirited there record of 0-11 shows they need more experience.

Many of the players complained about the lack of support and school spirit from the students and faculty. Freshman Matt DeRocchi exclaims, "Give us a little support!" Jay Belmore added, "Maybe if we were taken a little more seriously than maybe we would have done a little better."

Coach Jay Jenkins coached youth hockey for seven years before taking the JV job this winter. Coach Jenkins stated, "Although the team has never won a game we have improved immensely. An example is our first game we lost 16-0 against Derryfield, and the second time around the score had only a difference of a couple goals."

Coach Jenkins also was very pleased with the players level of effort and their attitude. He commented, "Nobody feels like losers because every one has improved so much."

Although the team came up winless this season it didn't take away their fun. Senior Aaron Payson summed up his experience on J.V. hockey by saying, "J.V. hockey is awesome."

CHEERLEADING SQUAD DISPLAYS ACROBATICS



Cheerleading Team (L to R) First Row: Laurie McDowell, Quincy Souza, Nicole Beck, Tricia Welsh. Second Row: Cheryl Buffington, Carolyn Tryder, Alisha Goodson, Desi Collins. Third Row: Brook Sparling, Danni Hodsdon, Christy Tryder, Shelly Grimley, Shawna Turner.

by Jess Houle

"It's a lot harder than it looks," says freshman Christy Tryder. Christy is one of the 11 members of the Oyster River High School Cheerleading Squad. The team, captained by senior Quincy Souza, participates in a rigorous two hour practice each day, and attends the boys basketball games both home and away.

Practices are devoted to working on basic cheers and choreography for new ones. The beginning of the season was dedicated to finding the right combinations of girls for mounts and bases, and also teaching the newcomers the basic cheers. As the season progressed the team worked on new cheers, and also choreographed a half time show. Coach Andy Souza feels that she is just there for support and that the girls do all the work.

How do these girls get along during practice? According to Junior Danni Hodsdon, "we constantly fight during practice." So why do these girls always look like they're having fun at games? Some of the girls say that always being in a good mood at games is "part of the job".

Dealing with the absences of two seniors this year has kept the cheerleaders a close-knit team. "Part of the reason we work so well together," says Tryder, "is because we've been through so much as a team." Despite a few problems, the girls feel that they have wonderful memories. Coach Mrs. Souza agreed, saying, "This team, over the years, has gotten better and stronger and they are doing a wonderful job."

HIGH SPIRITED BOBCATS COME UP SHORT

by Andrea Courtemanche

The girls' varsity basketball team ended the season with a record of 7-9, ranked 14th in class L&I. Although the team did not make the playoffs, Coach Kathy Baker feels that the team had a very respectable record.

"I think we did great compared to what people thought considering we lost four starters," said junior Meiliege Rodriguez.

Many players felt that the team worked well together. Senior co-captain Brandy Hoover said, "We're more united, we have a better time, and concentrated as a whole team."

Players said that a major part of their success was the support from the parents, although they wished that some Oyster River fans came and supported them.

(JV Champs Cont. From Pg.12)
the championship game in the traditional Oyster River tournament. Freshman Dave Jackson said, "We had played every team tough before the tournament, so I knew we had a pretty good shot". Dave also added that he felt the strength of the team was it's "perimeter shooting" and if they were able to keep shooting well they could beat anybody. Before making it to the championship game to beat Pembroke they had to get past Milford in the first round. They beat them pretty handily, and disposed of St Thomas before meeting Kingswood in the semi-finals. The Bobcats defeated Kingswood 62 to 56. With a balanced attack Sherif Farag led the charge with 14 points. Other strong contributors were Dave Jackson and Gordon Mathews with 13, John Tucker with 11, and Tom Getz with 8. Facing Pembroke academy for the championship they did not disappoint the fans. Taking Pembroke 74 to 68 they proved themselves to not be underestimated. The high scorers were Gordon Mathews and Dave Jackson scoring game highs of 23 points.

With a J.V. championship under their belts it will leave them with a little more confidence next year. Tom Getz commented, "There was no better way to end the season then with a championship."



Back row L to R: Nicole Wojick, Meiliege Rodriguez, Amy Howell, Anita Pudil, Ashley Brown, Brista Poole. Front row: Christine Gsottschneider, Brandy Hoover, Karen Menger-O'Brien, Katherine Fernald. (Team photos courtesy Yearbook Staff)

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O.R. Sports

Bobcats Fall After an Impressive 11-6-1 Season

by Meredith Armitage

The ORHS varsity hockey team ended the regular season, with a record of eleven wins, six losses, and one tie. With determination, they strove to achieve the ultimate goal: "We worked extra hard to kick butt in the playoffs," explained junior Sean Dolliver.

With some set backs, like missing players, the ORHS Hockey team still played on. "We've come together with what we have," said senior captain, Mike Merenda.

The Bobcats headed into the playoffs ranked fifth. They had to face their rival, Exeter, on Wednesday, March 2nd at Snively Arena. The hometown crowd was there and ready to cheer. There the team had a disappointing loss of 3-2. Andrew Gault commented on the playoffs saying, "It was a real back and forth game. They just came out on top in the end."

CONTEST: How well do you know your Hockey players?

If you answer the following questions correctly, you could win a great big smooch from the stud of question number nine! Just put your answers in the box in Mr. Tappan's room. All entries must be received by March 16th.



Tucker Katz mixes it up with Hanover as Andrew Gault looks on.

1. Who is the mysterious number 28?
2. During stretches, this person can be found doing a full split!
3. What player had two older brothers that played exactly the same position?
4. Whose mother can be found teaching geometry, trig and algebra?
5. Which two players can usually be found in the penalty box?

6. Who are the Captains?
 7. What fruit are they always munching on during halftime?
 8. Which player stood out for his black helmet?
 9. This player is not only an actor, but also plays the drums, the guitar and is in the band Aqua Velvet.
- Bonus: What is the name of the machine that clears the ice at half time?

Boys lose in Quarter Finals

BAD LUCK ENDS BOBCATS' MOMENTUM

by Mike Ross

With Sophomore Keith Friel sidelined due to an ankle injury, the Bobcats dropped a tough decision in Monday's game to No.1 seed Lebanon, 83-65. The Bobcats were led by strong efforts from leading scorer Greg Friel (16 pts) and defensive standouts Seth DeForest and Dan Kowal. Down by five at the half, the Bobcats were hurt by their lack of penetration on offense, a specialty of the elder Friel. The Bobcats were still within single digits in the fourth until a Lebanon run ended their hopes.

The Bobcats earned their way to the quarterfinals by beating Laconia 84-63 this past Friday. Keith Friel led the attack on Laconia by scoring 32 points. The Bobcats also shot 97% from the foul line hitting 25 of 26 shots. The boys varsity basketball team got off to a slow start standing 1-4 after their first five games. However, entering Thursday's opening round playoff game, the team stood at 11-7, following an eight-game winning streak.

On Thursday, February 10th, the Bobcats played perhaps their biggest game of the season, against seacoast rival Saint Thomas-Aquinas. STA came out cold and lost the game 89-80, after beating OR

earlier in the season.

The Bobcats stuck to their game plan: strong defense and to play as a unit.

Sophomore Keith Courtemanche hit two three pointers at the end of the first quarter to give the Bobcats a 23-14 lead.

The Bobcats led by 15 points during the first quarter and never looked back. The lead was threatened when STA closed the gap to seven points early in the second quarter, but the Bobcats knew what had to be done. OR went on a scoring drive late in the second quarter to lead the game 43-35 at half.

The start of the third quarter was just like the beginning of the game. The Bobcats came out strong. Sophomore Keith Friel scored the last three points of the third quarter to give OR a 63-51 lead.

The Bobcats scored 26 points in the fourth quarter despite sophomore Dan Kowal fouling out with 1:38 left to go in the game. Kowal, the center, finished the game early with 13 points.

The Bobcats were led by sophomore Keith Friel, with his first triple-double and 40 points and freshman Greg Friel, with 15 points.



bottom row (L-R): K. Courtemanche, A. Brown, K. Friel, D. Kowal, J. Farrell, R. Henry. top row: asst. coach Bill Dutkowski, J. Mercier, B. Taylor, S. Deforest, C. Stacey, G. Friel, D. Cirillo, Coach Don Maynard, asst. coach Rob Greenleaf.

JV CHAMPS!

by Keith Friel

The Oyster River J.V. Boys' Basketball team ended their season on a good note. By recently winning the J.V. tournament they finished with a record of 13-9.

The team consists of 8 players, 6 sophomores and 2 freshmen. The Sophomores are Ben Bilodeau, Gordon Matthews, Brian Trojan, Kevin Russell, Timothy Dee, and Tom Getz. The freshman are Sherif Farag and Dave Jackson. Together they are coached by Rob Greenleaf and Keith Magnell.

The highlight of the team's season was winning (JV Champs Cont. On Pg.11)